

Serial No. 10/694,348

Docket No. 60892.000016

AMENDMENTS**Listing of the Claims:**

1-36. (cancelled)

37. (amended) An absorbent article comprising a crosslinked cellulosic fiber having a centrifuge retention capacity of less than about 0.48 grams of a 0.9% by weight saline solution per gram of fiber **and a third insult acquisition rate of less than 10 seconds.**

38. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 37, wherein the absorbent article is at least one article selected from the group consisting of infant diapers, feminine care products, training pants, and adult incontinence briefs.

39. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 37 comprising a liquid penetrable top sheet, a liquid impenetrable back sheet, an acquisition layer, and an absorbent structure, wherein the acquisition layer is disposed beneath the top sheet, and the absorbent structure is located between the acquisition layer and the back sheet.

40. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 39, wherein the acquisition layer comprises the cross-linked fiber.

41. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 39, wherein the absorbent structure comprises a composite of superabsorbent polymer and cellulosic fiber.

42. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 41, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate polymers, starch graft copolymers, cellulose graft copolymers, cross-linked carboxymethylcellulose derivatives, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

43. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 41, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is in the form of fiber, flakes, or granules.

44. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 41, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is present in an amount of from about 20 to about 60% by weight, based on the total weight of the absorbent structure.

Serial No. 10/694,348

Docket No. 60892.000016

45. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 41, wherein the cellulosic fiber comprises the cross-linked cellulosic fiber.

46. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 45, wherein the cellulosic fiber comprises a mixture of the cross-linked cellulosic fiber and cellulosic fiber.

47. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 46, wherein the cellulosic fiber is a wood pulp fiber selected from the group consisting of hardwood pulp, softwood cellulose pulp obtained from a Kraft or sulfite chemical process, caustic treated wood pulp, rayon, cotton linters, and combinations or mixtures thereof.

48. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 46, wherein the cross-linked cellulosic fiber is present in the mixture of fibers in an amount of from about 1 to 70% by weight, based on the total weight of the total fiber.

49. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 48, wherein the cross-linked cellulosic fiber is present in an amount of from about 10 to 40% by weight, based on the total weight of the total fiber.

50. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 46, wherein the mixture of cellulosic fiber is present in an amount of from about 10 to about 80% by weight, based on the total weight of the absorbent structure.

51. (original) The absorbent article Claim 46, wherein the mixture of cellulosic fiber is present in an amount of from about 20 to about 60% by weight, based on the total weight of the absorbent structure.

52-58. (cancelled)